

ARC SCHOLAR AWARDS FOR UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Aging Research Center (ARC) at Sam Houston State University is pleased to announce the ARC Scholar Awards for Spring 2027, a research funding opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students.

OBJECTIVE

The ARC Scholar Award is designed to encourage and support undergraduate and graduate students pursuing innovative research on aging and age-related topics. It aims to promote scholarly inquiry into the biological, biomedical, psychological, social, environmental, and economic factors that influence healthy aging and the well-being of older adults. We welcome applications from students in all disciplines who demonstrate a strong interest in advancing knowledge and improving the quality of aging.

AWARD

Two students will be selected: one undergraduate and one graduate. Each will receive a \$2,000 award for participating in a research project with a faculty mentor during Spring 2027. The award may be granted as a scholarship or as hourly pay [or: and may also cover research materials, as described in the budget]. The student and mentor may complete the project by the end of the Spring 2027 semester or extend it through the end of Summer 2027. Funds must be spent by the end of the project period (Spring or Summer 2027).



DEADLINES

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. (CST) on December 30, 2026. Awardees will be notified no later than January 11, 2027.

ELIGIBILITY

- **Full-time undergraduate or graduate students** engaged in aging or aging-related research in any field and enrolled at SHSU during the Spring 2027 semester are eligible to apply. Students who receive any other SHSU student research funding (excluding travel grants) for Spring 2027 are not eligible for the ARC Scholar Award.
- **Awardees** are required to participate in ARC activities and attend the ARC seminar series during Spring 2027.

SELECTION CRITERIA

An interdisciplinary committee will evaluate applications based on:

- The student's eligibility and interest in aging research, as described in their statement of interest
- The design, feasibility, and budget of the proposed research project
- The significance of expected outcomes to aging research and alignment with ARC's mission and vision
- Good academic standing at the time of the award

PURSUE YOUR EXCELLENCE.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Statement of interest in aging research (1 page)
2. Resume or CV (maximum 2 pages)
3. Research proposal, including:
 - Abstract (350 words maximum)
 - Background and objectives (1 page)
 - Significance to aging research (½ page)
 - Methodology and expected outcomes (1 page)
 - Timeline (½ page)
 - Budget and justification (½ page): describe how funds will be used (e.g., scholarship, hourly pay, research materials)
 - References in AMA or APA (7th edition) format (not counted toward page limits)
4. Letter of recommendation from the faculty mentor describing the applicant's qualifications and the mentoring support they will provide during the award period. The mentor should email the letter directly to bxa051@shsu.edu with the applicant's name and "ARC Scholar Award Spring 2027" in the subject line.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their proposal with their faculty mentor and research peers before submitting.

FORMATTING GUIDELINES

- Arial, 11-point font, with 1-inch margins
- Graphs and figure legends must be clear and readable
- Follow all word and page limits above
- Submit items 1–3 as a single PDF

SUBMISSION

Email your application PDF to Dr. Berna Rahi, Chair of the ARC Scholar Award Review Committee (bxa051@shsu.edu), with your name and "ARC Scholar Award Spring 2027" in the subject line, by 11:59 p.m. (CST) on December 30, 2026.



AWARDEE REQUIREMENTS

Each awardee must submit a final report to the ARC co-directors that includes:

- A 1-page summary from the faculty mentor describing the student's progress and findings
- A 1-page reflection report and exit survey from the student describing the project's outcomes and its impact on their professional development

Awardees are also expected to present their findings at an SHSU research symposium and at a state, national, or international conference.

The final report is due May 10, 2027 for Spring projects / August 31, 2027 for projects extended through Summer]. Failure to submit the report on time may make the faculty mentor and student ineligible for future ARC funding.

COMPLIANCE

If the project requires IRB, IBC, or IACUC approval, approval must be obtained before funds are distributed. Applicants must also complete all relevant CITI training before beginning work. *This program is made possible by the generous support of the SHSU BRIDGE2.0 grant program through the SHSU Provost Innovation Fund.*

Click here to visit our website: shsu.edu/arc